Metro rail for Bangalooru

*214. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive action plan has been drawn up to provide metro-rail services in Bengalooru city;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating as to by when the work on this project would start; and

(c) by when the service would be available and the financial arrangement between the Central and State Government and the Municipal Corporation of Bengalooru in the project?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the approval of Government of India communicated on 11.5.2006, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRC), which is a joint venture company of Government of India and Government of Karnataka, is implementing the Bangalore Metro Rail Project in the following two corridors:

EAST-WEST CORRIDOR-18.1 km	:	Baiyapanahalli to Mysore Road.
NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR-14.9 km	:	Yeshwanthpur to R.V. Road Jayanagar.

The two lines cross each other at Majestic, close to the city Railway Station.

The above system covers a total length of 33 kms. (6.7 km underground and 25.65 km elevated) and it will be in Standard Gauge (1435 mm). The design and technology of the system would be in accordance with the DPR prepared for the project and approved by Government of Karnataka.

The project implementation period in five years. The project is targeted for completion by December 2011 in stages. Activity-wise targets have been set. All the private land required for the project (measuring 1,37,454 sqm.) has been notified for acquisition under the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) Act. Civil construction work on the elevated stretch of Reach I (7 km) from Baiyapanahalli to Cricket Stadium has commenced on 15.4.2007

Government of Karnataka has released Rs. 436 crores, while the Government of India has released Rs. 170 crores so far.

(c) The project is targeted for completion by December, 2011 and the stage-wise completion schedule is as under:—

i.	Baiyapanahalli-Cricket Stadium	:	March, 2010
ii.	Yeshwanthpur-Swastik	:	November, 2010
iii.	Underground section	:	September, 2011
iv.	City Station-Mysore Road	:	October, 2011
v.	City Market-R.R. Road	:	December, 2011

The financing arrangement between the Central Government and the State Government is as under:—

Current Cost	:	Rs. 5453 Crores	
Completion Cost	:	Rs. 6395 Crores	
		Contribution by	
		Govt. of India	Govt. of Karnataka
Equity	:	15%	15%
Subordinate	:	10%	15%
Senior term debt	:		45%

The Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) has agreed to lend Rs. 1795 crores for the project and the remaining portion of the Senior term debt will be raised from the financial institutions in India.

The Municipal Corporation of Bangalooru is not participating in the financing of the project.

Communication network

†*215. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages in the country that are yet to be linked with communication network, State-wise;

(b) whether during the last three years landline services of telephone are decreasing and mobile services are increasing;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether quality of service has come down as a result thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to improve quality of communication services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The work of providing telecom facilities to uncovered villages has been taken up under Bharat Nirman Programme. 16,302 villages remain to be linked with communication network as on 30.9.2007. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forests/naxalite affected areas. State-wise detail is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The decrease of landline phone connections are because of various reasons *inter alia*:—

(i) Preference of customers for mobile telephone connection.

(ii) Surrendering of 2nd and above telephone taken for Internet, etc. due to availability of broadband.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. As per section 11(1)(b)(v) of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1977, TRAI shall *inter alia* discharge the function to lay down the standards of quality of service to be provided by the service providers and conduct the periodical survey of such service provided by the service providers so as to protect the interest of the consumer of the telecommunication service. Accordingly, TRAI does vigorous monitoring

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.